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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): David D. Demarest, et al.

Examiner: C. Dexter

Serial No: 09/776,658

Art Unit: 3724

Filed: February 5, 2001

Docket: 8924ZA (ETH-1551)

For: SUTURE CUTTING SYSTEM

Dated: May 23, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.111 AND 1.143

Sir:

Pursuant to the election imposed in the Office Action dated April 23, 2001, applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, the claims of Group I, i.e., Claims 21-29 for continued prosecution herein.

REMARKS

Claims 21-39 are present in the above-captioned application and have been subjected to restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 (37 C.F.R. § 1.142). Specifically, the Office Action avers the following inventions are present in the claims:

Group I, Claims 21-29 drawn to a suture cutting method with specific feeding and guiding steps, classified in Class 83, subclass 13;

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on May 23, 2001.

Dated: May 23, 2001

Mishelle Mustafa
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